

**In this issue:** The Charadriiformes—shorebirds, gulls, terns, alcids, and relatives—are well known for their identification challenges and for their proneness to vagrancy. The diverse Charadriiformes also present a fascinating array of biological challenges and questions, some of which we examine in the pages that follow. *Cover art: Pigeon Guillemots. Watercolor on Fabriano by © Michael DiGiorgio.*

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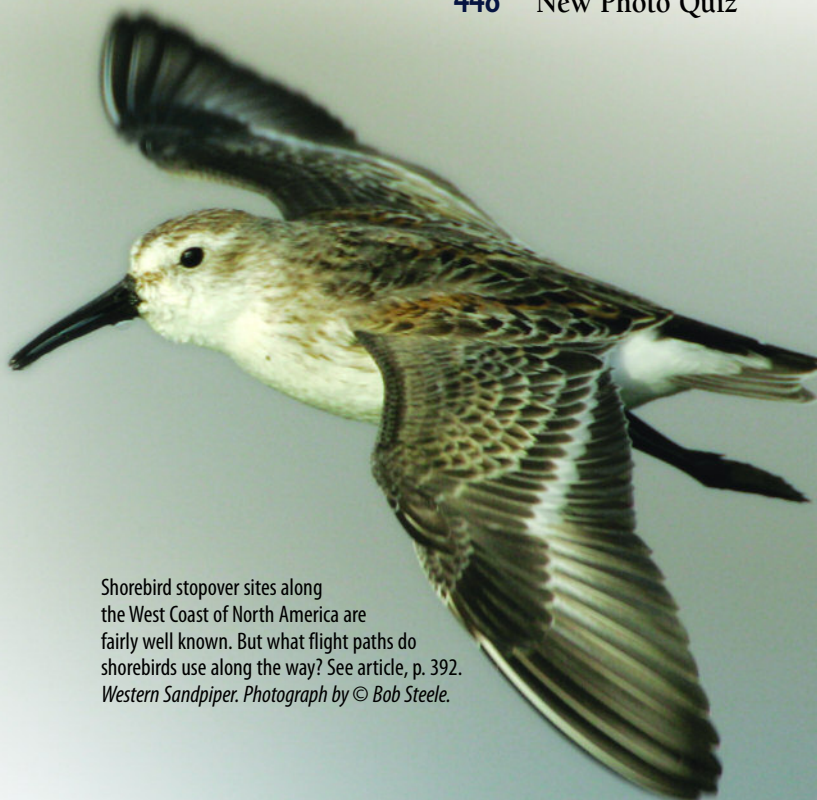
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Shorebird stopover sites along the West Coast of North America are fairly well known. But what flight paths do shorebirds use along the way? See article, p. 392. *Western Sandpiper. Photograph by © Bob Steele.*